



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY.'S DOCKET: IWATA=2

|                           |   |                        |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------|
| In re Application of:     | ) | Art Unit: 1762         |
|                           | ) |                        |
| Hideki IWATA et al        | ) | Examiner: W. Fletcher  |
|                           | ) |                        |
| Appln. No.: 10/691,521    | ) | Washington, D.C.       |
|                           | ) |                        |
| Filed: October 24, 2003   | ) | April 5, 2004          |
|                           | ) |                        |
| For: METHOD OF PROCESSING | ) | Confirmation No.: 7422 |
| INNER SURFACE OF BEARING  | ) |                        |
|                           | ) |                        |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT [IDS]

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

[X] 1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, as it is filed:

[ ] A. within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application or within three months of the entry into the national stage of the above-identified international application.

[ ] B. before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

[X] C. after (A) and (B) above, but before final rejection or allowance, and Applicants have made the necessary certification (box "i" below) or paid the necessary fee (box "ii" below).

(Check one of the boxes "i" and "ii" below:)

[X] i. Counsel certifies that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was either

[X] (a) first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or

[ ] (b) not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was not known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

[ ] ii. Credit Card Payment Form, PTO-2038, is attached authorizing payment of the fee set forth in §1.17(p), presently believed to be \$180. If the enclosed payment is incorrect, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4035.

[X] 2. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., form PTO/SB/08A) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached.

[X] 3. Document AC is not in the English language. In accordance with §1.98(a)(3), Applicant(s) states:

[X] An English translation of each document AC (or of the pertinent portions thereof), or a copy of each corresponding English-language patent or application, or English-language abstract (or claim) is enclosed.

[X] A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) AC is found in the attached British search report (see reply to Comment 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

[ ] A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) is set forth as follows:

*(insert concise explanation of relevance)*

[ ] A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) can be found on page(s) of the specification.

[ ] A concise explanation of document(s) can be found on the attached sheet.

[X] 4. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 and 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20). However, a concise explanation of relevance is being provided in the form of the attached British Search Report.

[ ] 5. Other information being provided for the examiner's consideration follows:

*(insert other information)*

6. In accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise

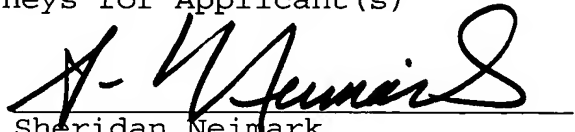
In re Appln. No. 10/691,521

indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant(s) reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorneys for Applicant(s)

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

**Complete if Known**

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Application Number     | 10/691,521         |
| Filing Date            | October 24, 2003   |
| First Named Inventor   | Hideki IWATA et al |
| Group Art Unit         |                    |
| Examiner Name          |                    |
| Attorney Docket Number | IWATA=2            |

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number<br>Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Number<br>Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant<br>of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages or<br>Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
|                       | AB                       | GB 988258  | 04-07-1965                     | Charles WHITE                                      |   |                |
|                       | AC                       | JP 2001-311429 A   | 11-09-2001                     | AICHI MACH CO LTD.                                 |   |                |
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Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.